

POTENTIAL TEA-21 REAUTHORIZATION

BRIEFING PAPER

Prepared for the
August 2002 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING

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PURPOSE:

To update Commissioners on the status of the FFY 2003 transportation appropriations and the status of the TEA-21 Reauthorization.

ACTION/OUTCOME:

Commissioners will learn about the US Senate's FFY 2003 transportation appropriations and anticipated future Congressional actions on appropriations.

Commissioners will also learn about recent and anticipated future developments regarding TEA-21 reauthorization. This conversation will include some of the TEA-21 issues WSDOT will focus on, the impact of the final report of the Washington State TEA-21 Reauthorization Committee, information about other interest groups' actions on TEA-21, and staff plans for working the Reauthorization process in the future.

BACKGROUND:

The US Senate recently concluded action on FFY 2003 transportation appropriations. Congress was expected to conduct a number of informational hearings in 2002 relating to TEA-21 reauthorization, and to begin the reauthorization process in early 2003.

DISCUSSION:

The US Senate recently appropriated federal fiscal year 2003 funds for transportation projects in Washington State and the nation; the House is expected to act in September.

The Washington State TEA-21 Reauthorization Committee final report, issued in mid-May, was delivered by Andrew Johnson and Larry Ehl in person to members and staff of the Washington State Congressional Delegation. Congress has been focused on several contentious, complicated and time-consuming issues and therefore has conducted relatively few TEA-21 hearings. Meanwhile some transportation interests continue to prepare up for next year's TEA-21 reauthorization.

RECOMMENDATION:

None.

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